

APPROVED MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND STATE PILOTAGE COMMISSION MEETING
February 12, 2015
held at 235 Promenade Street, Room 250
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

<u>MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	<u>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u>
Capt. E. Howard McVay Jr., Chair Capt. Peter Fritz, Member Chief Steve Hall, Member Larry Mouradjian, Member	Atty. Gary Powers, Legal Counsel , RIPC Joanne Scorpio, Secretary, RIPC Capt. Paul Costabile, Ex. Dir., NEMP Craig Ibbotson, Moran Shipping Frank Floor, Dep. Chief, DLE, RIDEM

I. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Quorum being present, the chair called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Commissioners reviewed the January 8, 2015 minutes. After revisions were made, Member Peter Fritz moved to approve the minutes; Member Chief Hall seconded the motion. The January 2015 minutes was approved by assent.

Before the Commissioners discussed old business, they talked briefly about the following:

- 1) Volvo races will take place this spring in Narragansett Bay. Capt. Costabile advised that we will be attending a meeting in March and will have some information then.
- 2) Chair McVay advised that the March may not take place. In the event that there is a need to convene, The Chair will contact the members to meet on March 19.
- 3) The Annual Public Hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2015

II. OLD BUSINESS

Regulation Review – Commission members continued reviewing State Pilot Regulations. Atty. Powers distributed a copy of the current revised regulations that were discussed at the February meeting.

- 1) 1.01 Definitions – O. “Reportable Incident” was added to the definitions. “*allision*” will replace the word *collision* in line 2 (Continued from page 2).
- 2) Reportable Incident – Commissioners discussed how a reportable accident/incident should be defined that involves a piloted vessel. Atty. Powers discussed the possibility of modifying the current proposed definition to include a clause that states “*or any occurrence that would affect the safe navigation of the vessel*”. The

Commissioners agreed with Atty. Powers' and will go ahead and make the modification.

- 3) Section 15.09D – Atty. Powers stated that the next modification he made was in Section 15.09D. “*However, only the Master of the vessel may be authorized by the pilot to dock a piloted vessel*”. Member Mouradjian pointed out that the revision was unnecessary because the following statement in Section 15.09E was similar and repetitious in meaning. The Commissioners discussed and agreed that the statement added in Section 15.09D will be deleted and that Section E will remain.
- 4) 15.19 Utilization of Commission-Issued Navigational Computer Equipment: The members discussed how the Commission should obtain the original contents in the VDR box (*black box*) in the event of an incident instead of obtaining a duplicate of the trip.

Atty. Powers will make a modification to 15.19A that will include “*in the event of a reportable incident/accident, the PPU will be turned into the Commission*”. He will also include “PPU” (*portable pilot unit*) into the definitions.

II. NEW BUSINESS

The RI State Pilot Board sent their first 2015 quarterly report to the Commission. The Board reported that Apprentice Capt. David Gray continues to improve piloting Narragansett Bay.

III. COMMENTS

- 1) Autonomous Vessels - Member Capt. Fritz advised the Commissioners and attendees about a new concern with autonomous vessels. He stated that in addition to the vessels not having any collision-avoidance systems and not being able to follow the rules of the road, it now appears that the vessels can be classified as a buoy. The members continued to discuss problems with AV's in Narragansett Bay.
- 2) Pilot Radio Antenna - Capt. Costabile advised that the NEMP replaced the old radio antenna located at the pilot office in Newport. He stated that DEM had reimbursed the NEMP when they purchased the original antenna right after the World Prodigy incident which was approved by former Asst. Director Steve Morin. Capt. Costabile said that the antenna is state property and that he would talk more to Jim Ball (*who replaced Steve Morin*) about possibly getting reimbursed.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am. Member Chief Hall made a motion to adjourn. Member Capt. Fritz seconded the motion.

V. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Next schedule meeting will be Thursday, April 2, 2015, unless a March meeting is necessary, beginning at approximately 9:30am at the Dept. of Environmental Management, Division of Law Enforcement, Rm. 250, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.